

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 037476 TOSEC 020095
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY D:DLAMB

APPROVED BY D:WCHRISTOPHER

S/S:MR. GAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 037476 TOSEC 020095

NODIS

CHEROKEE, FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: EVENING REPORT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THURSDAY'S EVENING REPORT:

1. VIET NAM QUERIES: OUR VIET NAM PRESS LINE IS FRAYING. UPI HAS CARRIED TWO STORIES IN LAST 12 HOURS REPORTING CONTACTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE. TODAY THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN WAS QUESTIONED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THESE REPORTS, BUT HE HELD STRICTLY TO THE LINE THAT WE HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT THE NSC SPOKESMAN SAID ON FEBRUARY 11. AFTER NINE DAYS, THERE IS STILL NO REPLY TO THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO HANOI.

2. LOPEZ PORTILLO'S VISIT TO THE CONGRESS: PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S ADDRESS TO THE CONGRESS TODAY WAS WELL
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PAGE 02 STATE 037476 TOSEC 020095

RECEIVED. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE IN A DIRECT MANNER OF THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES WHICH FLOW FROM OUR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID HE CAME TO SEEK UNDERSTANDING, BALANCE, AND RESPECT AND TO OFFER MEXICO'S GOOD WILL. AT THE LUNCHEON AFTERWARDS, ATTENDED BY THE SPEAKER AND SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS,

3. INDONESIA MATTERS: INDONESIA AMBASSADOR NURYADIN CAME IN TODAY, AND I URGED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MOVE PROMPTLY TO RATIFY THE NPT AND CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS THEY ARE HOLDING. NURYADIN RESPONDED THAT THE NPT IS CURRENTLY BEING EXAMINED BY THE INTERESTED INDONESIA MINISTRIES AND HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT EARLY RATIFICATION. AS AN INDICATION OF CONCRETE ACTION, HE SAID THAT 2,500 POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE RELEASED IN DECEMBER 1976. HE ALSO OUTLINED PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S PLANS TO RELEASE AN ADDITIONAL 10,000 POLITICAL DETAINEES EACH YEAR IN 1977, 1978 AND 1979.

4. US/EC CONSULTATIONS ON CIEC: IN PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CIEC), DICK COOPER HELD CONSULTATIONS YESTERDAY WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HEADED BY MICHAEL BUTLER OF THE UK FOREIGN OFFICE AND MANFRED CASPARI OF THE EC COMMISSION. THE EXCHANGE WAS INFORMAL AND EXPLORATORY, COVERING A BROAD RANGE OF PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS, INCLUDING TIMING AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE CIEC MINISTERIAL, THE FUTURE OF CIEC AS A NORTH/SOUTH FORUM, AND PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON THE PRIORITY CIEC TOPICS OF ENERGY, COMMODITIES, DEBT AND AID. THE DISCUSSION EXEMPLIFIES THE INDEPTH CONSULTATIONS PROMISED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT ON HIS EUROPEAN TRIP.

5. SOVIET DISSIDENTS AND HELSINKI FINAL ACT: YOU ASKED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 037476 TOSEC 020095

WHETHER SOVIET ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO DISSIDENT ACTIVITY VIOLATE THEIR COMMITMENTS IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. WE BELIEVE THEY DO. THE FINAL ACT AFFIRMS THE FREEDOMS OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE, RELIGION AND BELIEF, AND COMMITS THE SIGNATORY STATES TO ACT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ARREST OF PERSONS BECAUSE THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR BELIEFS OR BECAUSE THEY HAVE SOUGHT THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS IS FUNDAMENTALLY CONTRARY TO THESE UNDERTAKINGS. THE SOVIETS ARGUE THAT THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT RECOGNIZES THEIR RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN LAWS AND REGULATIONS. HOWEVER, THE FINAL ACT STATES THAT HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS "DERIVE FROM THE INHERENT DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON" AND THUS, IN OUR VIEW, THESE RIGHTS TRANSCEND NATIONAL LAWS.

THE FINAL ACT ALSO PROHIBITS EXPULSION OF JOURNALISTS FOR THE LEGITIMATE PURSUIT OF THEIR PROFESSION. THE SOVIETS CLAIM THAT U.S. JOURNALIST KRIMSKY WAS EXPELLED

NOT FOR THIS JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITY, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS

VIOLATION OF CURRENCY REGULATIONS. KRIMSKY HAS DENIED
VIOLATING ANY LAW, AND IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT HE WAS
REALLY EXPELLED BECAUSE OF HIS LEGITIMATE REPORTING ON
DISSIDENT ACTIVITY.
HARTMAN

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